



DFW

Docket: 2823 (203-3209 PCT US)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT(S): Orban, et al.

EXAMINER: NYK

SERIAL NO.: 10/516,435

GROUP: Art Unit 3721

FILED: November 30, 2004

DATED: February 23, 2007

TITLE: ANNULAR SUPPORT STRUCTURES

Mail Stop AMENDMENT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

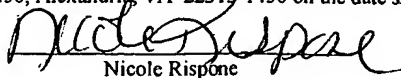
Pursuant to Applicant(s) duty of disclosure, the information listed in the attached form PTO/SB/08A is brought to the attention of the Examiner. Copies of the U.S. patent documents are not provided in accordance with the waiver of that requirement under 37 C.F.R. §1.98.

The citation of the listed items is not a representation that they constitute a complete or exhaustive listing of the relevant art or that the references are prior art. The items listed are submitted in good faith, but are not intended to substitute for the Examiner's search. It is hoped, however, that in addition to apprising the Examiner of these particular items, they will assist in identifying fields of search and in making as full and complete a search as possible.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postpaid in an envelope, addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below.

Dated: February 23, 2007


Nicole Risponne

The filing of this information disclosure statement is not an admission that the information cited herein is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b).

☐ This information disclosure statement is being filed within three (3) months of the filing date of this application.

☐ This information disclosure statement is being filed within three (3) months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.491 in an international application.

☐ This information disclosure statement is being filed before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a Request for Continued Examination under §1.114.

☒ To the best of Applicant(s) knowledge, this information disclosure statement is being filed before the date of mailing of a first Office Action on the merits in connection with this case.

☐ Applicant(s) hereby state(s) that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than 3 months prior to the filing of this statement as set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)(1).

☐ Enclosed herewith is a petition under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(d)(2).

☐ Enclosed by check is the petition fee of \$130.00. (37 C.F.R. §1.17(i)(1))

☐ Please charge the \$130.00 petition fee to Deposit Account No. 21-0550.

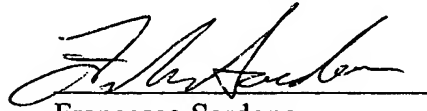
☐ Enclosed by check is the \$180.00 fee required by 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p).

☐ Please charge the \$180.00 fee required by 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) to Deposit Account No. 21-0550.

☒ Please charge any deficiency as well as any other fee(s) which may become due under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 and/or 1.17 at any time during the pendency of this application, or credit any overpayment of such fee(s) to Deposit Account 21-0550. Also, in the event any extensions of time for responding are required for the pending application(s), please treat this paper as a petition to extend the time as required and charge Deposit Account No. 21-0550 therefor.

The claims of the application as now presented are believed to patentably distinguish over the prior art and to be in condition for allowance. Early and favorable consideration of the case is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'F. Sardone', is written over a horizontal line.

Francesco Sardone

Reg. No.: 47,918

Attorney for Applicant(s)

Carter, DeLuca, Farrell & Schmidt, LLP

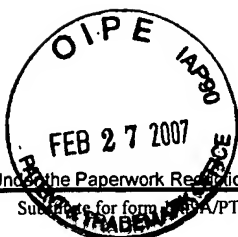
445 Broad Hollow Road - Suite 225

Melville, New York 11747

Tel.: (631) 501-5700

Fax: (631) 501-3526

FS/nr



Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form PTO/A/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Complete if Known

Application Number	10/516,435
Filing Date	November 30, 2004
First Named Inventor	Orban, et al.
Art Unit	NYK
Examiner Name	NYK
Attorney Docket Number	2823 (203-3209 PCT US)

Sheet 1 of 4

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS *WITHOUT REFERENCES*

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
		4,452,245	6-5-1984	Usher	
		4,834,090	5-30-1989	Moore	
		5,065,929	11-19-1991	Schulze et al.	
		5,314,471	5-24-1994	Brauker et al.	
		5,344,454	9-6-1994	Clarke et al.	
		5,392,979	2-28-1995	Green et al.	
		5,425,745	6-20-1995	Green et al.	
		5,441,507	8-15-1995	Wilk et al.	
		5,575,803	11-19-1996	Cooper et al.	
		5,653,756	8-5-1997	Clarke et al.	
		5,683,809	11-4-1997	Freeman et al.	
		5,690,675	11-25-1997	Sawyer et al.	
		5,782,396	7-21-1998	Mastri et al.	
		5,799,857	9-7-1998	Robertson et al.	
		5,843,096	12-1-1998	Igaki et al.	
		5,915,616	6-29-1999	Viola et al.	
		5,931,847	8-3-1999	Bittner et al.	
		5,997,895	12-7-1999	Narotam et al.	
		6,019,791	2-1-2000	Wood	
		6,032,849	3-7-2000	Mastri et al.	
		6,080,169	6-27-2000	Turtel	
		6,149,667	11-21-2000	Hovland et al.	
		6,155,265	12-5-2000	Hammerslag	
		6,210,439 B1	4-3-2001	Firmin et al.	
		6,214,020 B1	4-10-2001	Mulhauser et al.	
		6,258,107 B1	7-10-2001	Balazs et al.	
		6,267,772 B1	7-31-2001	Mulhauser et al.	
		6,273,897 B1	8-14-2001	Dalessandro et al.	
		6,280,453 B1	8-28-2001	Kugel et al.	
		6,299,631 B1	10-9-2001	Shalaby	
		6,312,457 B1	11-6-2001	DiMatteo et al.	

Examiner

Date Considered

Examiner: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP §609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to the applicant.

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Complete if Known

Application Number	10/516,435
Filing Date	November 30, 2004
First Named Inventor	Orban, et al.
Art Unit	NYK
Examiner Name	NYK
Attorney Docket Number	2823 (203-3209 PCT US)

Sheet 2 of 4

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS WITHOUT REFERENCES

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
		6,312,474 B1	11-6-2001	Francis et al.	
		6,436,030 B2	8-20-2002	Rehil	
		6,454,780 B1	9-24-2002	Wallace	
		6,461,368 B2	10-8-2002	Fogarty et al.	
		6,514,283 B2	2-4-2003	DiMatteo et al.	
		6,517,566 B1	2-11-2003	Hovland et al.	
		6,551,356 B2	4-22-2003	Rousseau	
		6,638,285 B2	10-28-2003	Gabbay	
		6,652,594 B2	11-25-2003	Francis et al.	
		6,669,735 B1	12-30-2003	Pelissier	
		6,677,258 B2	1-13-2004	Carroll et al.	
		6,685,714 B2	2-3-2004	Rousseau	
		6,723,114 B2	4-20-2004	Shalaby	
		6,726,706 B2	4-27-2004	Dominguez	
		6,736,823 B2	5-18-2004	Darois et al.	
		6,736,854 B2	5-18-2004	Vadurro et al.	
		6,746,458 B2	6-8-2004	Cloud	
		6,773,458 B1	8-10-2004	Brauker et al.	
		6,927,315 B1	8-9-2005	Heinecke et al.	
		7,128,748 B2	10-31-2006	Mooradian et al.	
		2002/0016626 A1	2-7-2002	DiMatteo et al.	
		2002/0019187 A1	2-14-2002	Carroll et al.	
		2002/0052622 A1	5-2-2002	Rousseau	
		2002/0091397 A1	7-11-2002	Chen	
		2002/0133236 A1	9-19-2002	Rousseau	
		2002/0138152 A1	9-26-2002	Francis et al.	
		2002/0151911 A1	10-17-2002	Gabbay	
		2003/0065345 A1	4-3-2003	Weadock	
		2003/0065346 A1	4-3-2003	Evens et al.	
		2003/0083676 A1	5-1-2003	Wallace	
		2003/0105510 A1	6-5-2003	DiMatteo et al.	

Examiner

Date Considered

Examiner: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP §609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to the applicant.

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Complete if Known

Application Number	10/516,435
Filing Date	November 30, 2004
First Named Inventor	Orban, et al.
Art Unit	NYK
Examiner Name	NYK
Attorney Docket Number	2823 (203-3209 PCT US)

Sheet 3 of 4

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS *WITHOUT* REFERENCES

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
		2003/0114866 A1	6-19-2003	Ulmsten et al.	
		2003/0167064 A1	9-4-2003	Whayne	
		2003/0181927 A1	9-25-2003	Wallace	
		2004/0034377 A1	2-19-2004	Sharkawy et al.	
		2004/0092960 A1	5-13-2004	Abrams et al.	
		2004/0093029 A1	5-13-2004	Zubik et al.	
		2004/0107006 A1	6-3-2004	Francis et al.	
		2004/0142621 A1	7-22-2004	Carroll et al.	
		2004/0172048 A1	9-2-2004	Browning	
		2004/0209059 A1	10-21-2004	Foss	
		2004/0215214 A1	10-28-2004	Crews et al.	
		2004/0215219 A1	10-28-2004	Eldridge et al.	
		2004/0215221 A1	10-28-2004	Suyker et al.	
		2004/0254590 A1	12-16-2004	Hoffman et al.	
		2004/0260315 A1	12-23-2004	Dell et al.	
		2005/0002981 A1	1-6-2005	Lahtinen et al.	
		2005/0021026 A1	1-27-2005	Baily	
		2005/0021053 A1	1-27-2005	Heinrich	
		2005/0021085 A1	1-27-2005	Abrams et al.	
		2005/0059996 A1	3-17-2005	Bauman et al.	
		2005/0059997 A1	3-17-2005	Bauman et al.	
		2005/0118435 A1	6-2-2005	DeLucia et al.	
		2005/0228446 A1	10-13-2005	Mooradian et al.	
		2006/0085034 A1	04-20-2006	Michael Bettuchi	
		2006/0085034 A1	04-20-2006	Michael Bettuchi	
		2006/0271104 A1	11-30-2006	Viola, et al.	

Examiner	Date Considered
Examiner: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP §609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to the applicant.	

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet

4

of

4

Complete if Known

Application Number	10/516,435
Filing Date	November 30, 2004
First Named Inventor	Orban, et al.
Art Unit	NYK
Examiner Name	NYK
Attorney Docket Number	2823 (203-3209 PCT US)

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS WITH REFERENCES

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
		WO 90/005489	05-31-1990	Immuno Sweden AB		
		WO 03/082126 A1	10-09-2003	Synovis Life Technologies, Inc.		
		WO 03/105968	12-24-2003	Tyco Healthcare Group, LP		
		DE 1 99 24 311	11-30-2000	Berstein et al.		X

Examiner

Date Considered

Examiner: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP §609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to the applicant.